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TELEPHONE, BREKMAN 2290.

Ten Thousand.
We have not the means of verifying the estimate of the brewers that 10,000 saloons in this city will go out of business next month because of the Executive ban on beer, but the figure is round and fascinating and suggestive.

Ten thousand bartenders would be welcome in essential industry, if not in the army.

Ten thousand hardwood bars could be turned into gun stocks, ship's furniture and peace conference tables.

Ten thousand sets of mirrors, placed in the cantonments, would add to the joy of the man putting on his first suit of olive drab.

Ten thousand brass footfalls would be received by the shell factories with loud cheers.

Ten thousand groups of "private stock" bottles could be used as ketchup containers.

Ten thousand bungsters could be adapted to shipyard use for the driving home of wooden keys. One of these interesting weapons might be sent to the Historical Society.

Ten thousand slates, after careful washing, could be used in schools.

Ten thousand vacated saloons—what would be the increased value, in money alone, of the buildings in which they now nestle?

The Great American Army.
The announcement that nearly all of the American troops hitherto brigaded with the French and English have been withdrawn for assembly into one great army is among the most cheering features of a season rich in good news. This is not because our national pride is flattered by the separation of the Americans from their allies, for it was an honor for our soldiers to fight side by side with the men who have stood four years of struggle in magnificent fashion.

The news is great because it indicates that at last, considerably through America's effort, the resources of the Allies are so large that General Foch is able to set aside from the pursuit of the retreating Germans a surplus so powerful. The United States has sent abroad more than a million and a half soldiers. The formation of 90 per cent. of these into a distinctively American army under General Pershing will give to the unified command a complete army not only impressive in its numbers but tremendously important from the fact that, as General MacArthur recently remarked, the freshness and vigor of the American troops are the greatest single possession of the Allies.

It has been driven into the head of the German soldier within the past few weeks that, as well as being beatable, he is being beaten. More important than Foch's recovery of territory is his forcible feeding of the German with the bread of disunity. To add to this physical and moral victory the banking of a huge army of the best fighters in the world is an Allied triumph. "Best" is here used advisedly and not merely through the pride that the accomplishments of the Americans abroad have stirred in every Yankee breast. Our men are now the best in Europe because they have not only the courage, the equipment and the food, but also because they have a physical and moral strength untouched by the attrition of weary years of war. They are looking forward; the Germans are looking back and seeing nothing but shame and the failure of a great, immoral scheme. Our men are young; the Germans have been aged by the sight of years and of hope.

The ability of Prussia to avail herself of the last pound of man power in Germany has never been underestimated by THE SUN, but now it is beyond human possibility for Berlin's dragnets to bring forward a sufficient number of men to compare with the man power that the United States summons next Thursday to add to Pershing's forces. Germany knows this. She knows, and will know, of the concentration of the million or more fighting Americans in one grand, fresh, vigorous army. She knows that this army will not be reduced but rather added to constantly and in whatever numbers are necessary to beat her. Her submarines have failed to prevent the Americans from crossing the sea as easily as if it were a

short bridge. Do what she will with her undersea power, the day to stop America is past. There was a political phrase common in England a couple of years ago, the epitome of regretful despair: "Too late!" It has fled from England and made its home east of the Rhine.

What Foch will do with the great American army only a hardened military critic would dare to say, and after he said it it is possible that the Generalissimo would do something quite the contrary. It is likely that the commander of all the forces engaged against Germany has given the matter more than passing thought.

It is only a few weeks ago that another question, "Why doesn't Foch do something?" was answered, as it is still being answered, in a most practical and positive manner. What Foch wishes done with the American army, and where and when he will politically ask Pershing to do it, are interesting problems for the speculator.

The one thing we are sure of is that, whatever the job, Pershing and his men will do it well. On this point we are confident that our belief, if not our mood, is shared by a man named LUDENDORFF.

The Senate Debate on the Administration's Mysterious Educational Plan.

After much discussion in and out of Congress of the educational project for the new junior class of draft registrants the Senate is as much at sea as ever as to the purpose of the Government in working out an educational scheme under the powers granted—or to be taken as granted. The latest discussion of the subject was started when Senator Watson succeeded in having read into the Record an article written by DAVID LAWRENCE, the Washington correspondent of the Evening Post.

The paragraph in the article which was most commented upon and questioned reads as follows:

"If a boy of 18 can pass an examination set before him he may conceivably have spent six months as a private in the army and be sent as a result of an examination to enter Yale, Harvard or Princeton or any of the numerous colleges with which the Government will have contracted for student instruction."

Senator WATSON wanted the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee to inform him what the article meant; is the Government to take over the education of all youths between 18 and 21 for general education, or is it proposed by the provision of the man power bill to give education in engineering, chemistry and medicine to those junior registrants who give promise to relieve the army and navy shortage in engineers, chemists and doctors? Senator CHAMBERLAIN regretted that he could not give the information asked for. "I do not know," he said, "from whence this authoritative as having come from the Commander in Chief of the army and navy." His knowledge of what he supposed was the Government's purpose he received in the committee hearings when Dr. MANN of the University of Chicago stated that he is a member of a commission "which is a branch of the training section of the War Plan Division of the General Staff."

Senator LODGE understood, he said, "that the provision we inserted in the draft extension bill was designed for boys under 21 who had served in France," and that the Government was to educate them for a period equal to the time of their service in France.

Then once again Chairman CHAMBERLAIN, with a faint smile and almost pathetic in statutory language as a monitor and guide for administrative performance, read the educational section of the bill, and once more the Senate was informed that the expressed purpose of Congress was "that the Secretary of War be authorized to assign to educational institutions for special and scientific training" junior registrants in such number and under such regulations as he may prescribe.

This enlightened several Senators insisted that that provision does not authorize the Government to take over 400 colleges and universities beginning the first of next month, as promised in the quoted article, and fill them with junior registrants, tuition and board free, to receive academic education. Senator WATSON pointed out that the 400 colleges and universities could give educational facilities to only 120,000 students, but that nearly 3,000,000 juniors will be drafted. "Who was to select the lucky 120,000?" The taking over of these institutions is but an additional step in the socialistic programme that has heretofore been adopted in our governmental affairs by men in high places who are socialists," added the Indiana Senator.

Senator WADSWORTH thought the article upon which the discussion was based was propaganda. He said:

"I note that the article is written by Mr. DAVID LAWRENCE, which explains a great deal to me. It is well known that he is fairly actively engaged from time to time in what may be called political propaganda, and the spreading of this article over the United States, where I have no doubt it will be read by thousands of parents and young boys, is calculated to give the impression that as a partial offset for whatever hardship may be incurred as the result of the new draft a paternal Government is to step in and educate free of charge every boy in the country who is 18 years old. The vice of this article is that it is deceiving the American public, and it is not the first article of

its kind which has gone out from Washington."

Senator KINNEY offered direct testimony that it was not the original purpose of the War Department to provide academic training for every boy in the country. He had written to the Provost Marshal General on the subject, and reported his answer to the Senate, thus: "General CHOWNE wrote me a letter in which he said that it was not expected that any boy would have an opportunity to complete his education except those in the engineering, chemistry and medical departments."

Senator JOHNSON of California saw neither socialism nor paternalism in the Government's policy if faithfully reported by Mr. LAWRENCE. He saw Absolutism! He thought that Senator WATSON had started a foolish discussion. "The Senator from Indiana," said the Californian, "just like all the rest of us, has contributed to the creation in the nation today of an absolutism. I do not know if the article which has been read is true or not. If the salvage of a smashed Democracy, Mr. President, shall be the education of our 18 year boys I shall gladly welcome it."

Senator SHERMAN thought the latter part of the article (printed above), "is, to use the vernacular of the street, a mere feeler on public sentiment." He was very cross because the Administration stole this and other ideas of Congress and adopted them for its own purposes. He fearlessly said:

"However, there is little difference made between the quick and the dead by Cabinet officers, because they possess the vital power of resurrection. I have seen it done, not once, not twice, but by actual count I can enumerate over eleven of those cases in which useful ideas have been delivered in this body, killed by the Executive frown, and afterward resurrected by the Executive favor."

And the mystery remains unsolved.

A Fallacy About Birthdays.

About eighteen years ago a considerable number of ordinarily intelligent persons insisted that the nineteenth century would come to an end at 12 o'clock on the night of December 31, 1899. They stormed and raged and would not be comforted when a majority of the world decided to wait a full year longer before celebrating. The obstinate minority may still live; and it may be they or their children who come forward with the amazing proposition that a man reaches his forty-sixth birthday when he is 45 years old. The appended letter is not the only one of the kind that THE SUN has received since the man power law was enacted:

"To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your editorial article in THE SUN of September 2, 'From the Eighteenth Birthday to the Forty-sixth,' seems to be altogether wrong.

"The European custom is to celebrate the full years on the last day; that is, a forty-sixth birthday means at the end of the forty-sixth year. The American custom, South and West, does not celebrate it that way. When you say forty-sixth birthday it means the first day of the forty-sixth year, after you are fully forty-five years old. So in this case those who have been born on the 12th day of September, 1873, do not need to register.

"Will you find out from Washington whether this is not the right way? These mistakes will be made by the thousands and should be cleared up."

"T. L. B."

"New York, September 5."

We beg to assure our correspondent that we have found out from Washington. Our information comes from the text of the law, which says in Section 1 that the liability to military service falls upon men "between the ages of 18 and 45, both inclusive." And in Section 3 uses the variant but equally intelligible phrase "who shall have attained their eighteenth birthday and who shall not have attained their forty-sixth birthday."

The dissenting "F. L. B." may have discovered strange birthday customs in the South and West, but we fear they will not be respected by the draft boards. The word "birthday" in the law means an anniversary of birth. A child's first birthday is at the end of its first year of life, and a man's forty-sixth birthday comes at the end of his forty-fifth year, when he ceases to be 45. To quote from the statement of the Provost Marshal General, issued because of confusion in some minds:

"If his age is 45 years and 264 days on September 12 he must register."

The dictum of "F. L. B." that those born on September 12, 1873, need not register, is not only wrong but dangerous. Such persons, if they exist, will be only 45 years old next Thursday and they are inside the draft by a year. Every man born after September 12, 1872, and on or before September 12, 1900, is liable.

"In Austrian."

A despatch from Chicago informs us that among the documents seized in a raid on an ultra-anarchistic branch of the I. W. W. in connection with the Federal Building explosion of a few days ago were some "printed in Austrian." Surely this is an interesting philological discovery. It has a value quite on a par with that which would be attached to the unearthing of a manuscript in the language of the Tower of Babel immediately after the rather complicated linguistic confusion with which that venerable historical monument is identified.

It is entirely within bounds to say

that if the Chicago secret service officers have in their possession an authentic document printed in the Austrian language they have the only one in existence, the only one ever produced in the entire history of the Austrian Empire.

What a deal of inconvenience it would have saved, to be sure, had the Austrian language been in use at the time of that Pan-Slavic Congress held in Prague seventy years ago, when the chair was addressed in some twenty different tongues, with such Babel results that the business of the congress was seriously handicapped, until it was decided to adopt German as the official language of the assemblage. Of course a large number of the delegates did not understand a word of German, but on the whole it was found that fewer representatives were thus inconvenienced than would have been the case had any other of the twenty languages present been selected as the vehicle of thought.

Germans, the Czechs and Slovaks, Poles, Croats and Serbs, Rutenians, Magyars, Italians, Rumanians and a bewildering number of other tribes and groups, each with its own language or dialect, are under the rule of the Austrian Empire. That is all going to be changed a little later on, but for the moment that is the existing status of this polyglot assemblage. Now, how many among all these different races are able to read, write and speak that Austrian language just discovered in Chicago?

At a venture, not one of them. At a venture, we should say that there is some degree of error concerning this Chicago contribution to the world's stock of philological erudition.

The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee turns for revenue to a tax on tea, coffee and sugar. The kitchen is catching it from KITCHEN.

Germany would be willing to drop the Brest-Litovsk treaty if she could put some of its poison into another and more important peace document.

There never was anything beautiful about a brewery except its horses, and these to a large extent have been supplanted by motor trucks.

The bachelor who on Thursday informs his registry board that his occupation is painting beer signs is almost certain to win a new suit of olive drab.

Army physical examinations should adapt themselves to the mode of warfare being pursued in France; feet-needs should be a primary requirement for active service.

Slacker hid in subway five days—Headline.

He must be physically fit for the tank service.

In its effort to save telephone time the Government might forbid any person to say "Guess who this is!"

The official decree that "persons who write poetry, fiction and advertisements must be drafted in essential industries is a case of saving the pot for the world without his helping to save the world for poetry. Then there is the practical consideration of proving the possession of poetical genius.

LOUIS THE DISTINGUISHED.
He Is Taken for a Judge, an Ex-Colonel and What Not.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Mr. Smith, who thinks he saw me, is wrong. I have not walked in the country for these last six years. However, here in the city I am taken for a doctor, an ex-Colonel and other important personages.

Why just two days ago, while crossing Fifth Avenue at Fifty-eighth street, rather dangerous there, an automobile just grazed me and I took down the chauffeur to halt. I did not want to prosecute him as I had no time and hurried away. Next morning, on recrossing, the policeman hailed me, came to me and said: "Magistrate, why did you not send him to court?" I told him you were an ex-Magistrate and I took down his name and address. "I had no time."

Now this policeman at a glance knew that I was a somebody. Let Mr. Smith study me better next time.

LOUIS M. ENGLISH, Supreme Spirit of the Spheres, New York, September 7.

Inquiry for "Skedaddles."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What has become of that good old civil war word "skedaddles" under the new laws?

CHARLES T. MURRAY, WARRENSVILLE, W. Va., September 6.

Fun Under Fire.

One American unit has a jazz band and vaudeville troupe of soldiers who give performances under fire—New York.

White? Black? Ring up the curtain (This end's not certain). We'll start the old boys To cheer up the boys. We've got to move some—More action here, Drum—We sure must go strong If the show's not long.

You're a skedaddler At the front If you fetch. With your stunt, A cheer or a laugh With your jazz song or chaff, (Where a burr-bursting shell Knocks the story you'd tell) The rag time That went like a breeze As a Broadway wheeze.

Wow! What a crack! (What's wrong, back?) Go white, Billy got hit! His turn was next—Monologue text.

Give me his cue: I'll take it through. Jazz-a-rag-bang! That's the gang. Hop, hop! Trombone, ther! Peep! Oh, boy, That's it! Whoop her up, Wife! (Poor Billy's religion)

THE TIME will come when the man of 45 can run five miles, and then he has won back the precious wind from which he had been divorced for many years. And with the winning he will have made a big, long start toward being born again as a physical person. For men in advance of the draft age the walking alone will probably do the work as well as the need to have done, but father of the ranks must remember that he is liable to be called upon to carry a fifty pound pack and do a little running with the pack, and

he will do well to fortify himself against the chance.

While this wind restoring process is under way, the fighting father will have to be working on his stomach. Diet that eliminates everything that is not simple, that puts sweets and starches on the blacklist and does not tax the digestion, begins the stomach treatment. It then should take the form of the simple "settling up" exercises prescribed by the army doctors, those which especially apply to the stomach muscles.

Around nearly every forty-year-old waist there is a belt of fat, and more fat has lovingly nestled around the intestines and formed an arch under the stomach. The ambitious concept of father bends and tries to touch the floor with his hands without bending his knees. He finds that he has missed the mark by eight or ten inches. But that ought not to discourage him. If he will continue the bending exercise regularly, working constantly against the prevailing fat, without straining himself, he will find in a couple of weeks that it is losing its obstinate opposition to having him touch the floor, and day by day he is coming closer, until at length he can negotiate the entire distance without the slightest trouble.

By taking a dozen of these exercises immediately upon arising and varying them with arm and leg movements, that belt of fat will gradually melt away and the man will be in the best of health.

Such a course would undoubtedly put father either in the hospital or the grave.

But there is no reason why the man of middle age, carefully handled, should not be hardened to field work. Some of us, impelled by both studious interest and necessity, have experimented with the type, picked its weak points and found means to combat the ill of inactive years. That is, we have written in it as an elementary guide to the man from 35 to 45 in the task of getting fit. There is no question that observance of the ideas will add years to the lives of men in advance of the draft age and remedy many of the chronic physical troubles to which men permit themselves to become heirs.

"It is a tangible adaptation of the dream of Ponce de Leon," said a prominent man to whom the subject was mentioned. "Why don't you take it out from under a bush?"

Which question is responsible for this letter from a grandfather to his fellow citizens of the same class.

Seeking for a cornerstone upon which to lay the foundation of this physical culture course, I considered from its military viewpoint, but adaptable to civil workers. It should be pointed out that the cardinal points of weakness in men of the age under discussion are:

1.—The heart.
2.—The lungs.
3.—The stomach.
4.—The limbs.

The problem is to make them function normally after years devoted to pursuits and pleasures that have contributed to their undoing.

A very large percentage of the men of the type use either tobacco or alcoholic liquor in some form. Both cut the wind and operate injuriously upon the heart. The man who wishes to be born again as an athlete must make up his mind to eschew both. Sudden transitions are always bad, and no man who has fed for a score of years upon artificial stimulants ought to think of dropping them without first making his system ready for the change. Cut the drinking in half for a week and then stop it in half. At the end of a week cut what is left in half, and then eliminate the balance.

With this treatment, which is nearly exclusively mental, must come the physical work. All of our class nearly have a little bit of fat under the heart, and this fat is a very real menace to life like a gasoline engine that misses fire. It is a weakness that is fraught with constant danger in civil life, and under military conditions it may easily prove fatal. But it can be remedied. Taking away the artificial stimulants and substituting exercises that will gently build up the slacker heart will gradually restore it to working shape. Regular sleep, simple meals and a careful avoidance of things that bring excitement and wear are essential accessories to the transformation.

More men are hurt every day by worrying over business and social matters, and by permitting their nerves to be shaken through anger and annoyance than are injured through all the accidents of known accidents. So getting under an even mental level is a prime requisite for the father who wants to be fit when the bugle blows.

In a recent case wherein one of the best doctors in all New York examined him, he found heart trouble and found that the means of restoring the offending heart to a respectable position in the community.

It worked so well that the same army doctor, making a reexamination, passed the man as physically fit after a five days' treatment.

A soldier without wind is as helpless as a Big Bertha unsupported by infantry. The short wind of the man of middle age has come through inaction. It can be cured by reversing the ordinary course and making exercise count. The work should begin with strong, brisk walking over a distance that is approximately known. The regulation army gait calls for 120 steps a minute, each step being thirty inches long. Striking this pace the walker will cover a mile in about seventeen minutes. Take your watch and time a mile and see if you can make it at the regulation rate without fatigue. The walker ought to begin his work carefully, making every step a careful part of his training, holding the head erect, the chest out, the stomach in, as much as good living will permit, and swinging the arms freely.

Take a couple of miles the first day. Then cut to one mile on the second, and go back to a full two miles on the third. As the walking brings an easy swing and the distance can be increased without undue fatigue, increase it. And then, when the lungs are no longer cramped, the two miles or more of walking, break it up into twenty-five yards or so at intervals, stopping when the wind shows strain and resuming the walk until nature gives the signal for a little sprint.

The time will come when the man of 45 can run five miles, and then he has won back the precious wind from which he had been divorced for many years. And with the winning he will have made a big, long start toward being born again as a physical person. For men in advance of the draft age the walking alone will probably do the work as well as the need to have done, but father of the ranks must remember that he is liable to be called upon to carry a fifty pound pack and do a little running with the pack, and

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The problem is to make them function normally after years devoted to pursuits and pleasures that have contributed to their undoing.

A very large percentage of the men of the type use either tobacco or alcoholic liquor in some form. Both cut the wind and operate injuriously upon the heart. The man who wishes to be born again as an athlete must make up his mind to eschew both. Sudden transitions are always bad, and no man who has fed for a score of years upon artificial stimulants ought to think of dropping them without first making his system ready for the change. Cut the drinking in half for a week and then stop it in half. At the end of a week cut what is left in half, and then eliminate the balance.

With this treatment, which is nearly exclusively mental, must come the physical work. All of our class nearly have a little bit of fat under the heart, and this fat is a very real menace to life like a gasoline engine that misses fire. It is a weakness that is fraught with constant danger in civil life, and under military conditions it may easily prove fatal. But it can be remedied. Taking away the artificial stimulants and substituting exercises that will gently build up the slacker heart will gradually restore it to working shape. Regular sleep, simple meals and a careful avoidance of things that bring excitement and wear are essential accessories to the transformation.